

APPLICANT: Avner SHAFRIR, et al.
SERIAL No.: 09/580,904
DOCKET NO.: 23452-110
CUSTOMER NO.: 29315

Remarks

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the Double Patenting rejection.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to priority from provisional application 60/137,513 filed June 2, 1999.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for considering the references cited in the IDS filed on February 7, 2003, as indicated by the signed and initialed electronic IDS.

Claims 1-29 are all the claims pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the rejected claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by "Chatting in Style," University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on at least the grounds that the "Chatting in Style" reference is not prior art because it appears to have been disclosed on August 13, 2001, which is *after* Applicants' priority date of June 2, 1999.

Applicants used the "Internet Archive WayBackMachine" available at <http://www.waybackmachine.org> to determine the release date of the "Chatting in Style" document. The earliest date at which Applicants could find a release of the "Chatting in Style" reference is on August 13, 2001. A copy of the WayBackMachine results are attached as ATTACHMENT A. Since the cited reference does not satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102(a), withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-29 is respectfully requested. However, Applicants reserve the right to distinguish over the "Chatting in Style" web page if and when a disclosure date prior to June 2, 1999 is established.

APPLICANT: Avner SHAFRIR, et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/580,904
DOCKET NO.: 23452-110
CUSTOMER NO.: 29315

Nonetheless, independent claims 1, 6, 13, 18, 26, 27, 28 and 29 are distinguishable over this cited reference, which is not prior art. In particular, the independent claims recite the feature of presenting one or more user indicators *as links within the at least one electronic document*, among other things. In an exemplary embodiment, network users may determine the status of other network users wherever a user indicator is presented in the system, whether it is an e-mail, HTML document or any other electronic document (see the specification at page 5, lines 25-30).

In contrast, "Chatting in Style" illustrates a separate ICQ window, which is not part of an electronic document (see page 2 of "Chatting in Style"). Rather, the ICQ window is displayed on top of other open applications on a desktop or as a floating window that may be reduced as an icon on the desktop (see page 2). As a result, Applicants claimed subject matter is distinguished from "Chatting in Style" which fails to disclose or suggest presenting one or more user indicators *as links within the at least one electronic document*.

In view of the comments above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference does **not** satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited.

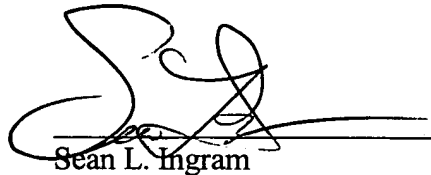
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned attorney stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

APPLICANT: Avner SHAFRIR, *et al.*
SERIAL NO.: 09/580,904
DOCKET NO.: 23452-110
CUSTOMER NO.: 29315

In the event that it is determined that additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

Dated: October 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



Sean L. Ingram

Registration No.: 48,283

(for James G. Gatto, Reg. No. 32,694)

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND
POPEO P.C.

12010 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 900

Reston, Virginia 20190

703-464-8140

Customer No.
29315